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A bill to be entitled an act to remove the disability of minority from William Stean, Jr. so as to enable him to receive his portion of the estate of his deceased parents.

A bill to be entitled an act authorizing the County Court of Red River County to have the records in of books A. B. and C. of deeds and mortgages and other instruments of writing now in the office of the Clerk of said county, transcribed—read first time.

A bill to be entitled an act establishing more permanently the seat of justice of Collin county—read first time.

A bill to be entitled an act to prescribe the mode of voting in all popular elections—read first time.

A bill to be entitled an act to provide for repairs necessary on public buildings in the city of Austin—read first time.

A bill to be entitled an act to remove the disability of minority from William Stean Jr. so as to enable him to receive his portion of the estate of his deceased parents—read first time.

Mr. Dancy, by leave introduced a bill to be entitled an act to amend the Constitution of the State of Texas; read first time.

Mr. Cuny, by leave introduced a bill to be entitled an act to repeal an act entitled an act to prescribe the time of the biennial meeting of the Legislature of the State of Texas—read first time.

On motion of Mr. Williamson, the Senate adjourned until to-morrow, morning 10 o'clock.

Thursday, 10 o'clock, A.M. }
December 30, 1847. }

Senate met—roll called. The following Senators answered to their names :

Messrs. Abbott, Bache, Bourland, Brashear, Clark, Cuny,

Dancy, Gage, Grimes, Jewett, Navarro, Parker, Perkins, Phillips, Wallace, Williams and Wootten. Quorum present.

The Journal of the preceeding day was read and adopted.

Mr. Gage, chairman of the committee on Counties and County Boundaries, made the following reports :

Committee Room, }
Dec. 30, 1847. }

Hon. J. A. GREER,
President of the Senate :

A portion of the committee to whom was referred a bill to be entitled "an act to vest in the county of Austin, for county purposes, the property of the Corporation of the town of San Felipe," have had the same under consideration, and have instructed me to report the same back to the Senate without amendment, and recommend its passage.

D. GAGE, Chairman.

Hon. J. A. GREER,
President of the Senate :

The committee on Counties and County Boundaries, to whom was referred a bill to be entitled "an act better to define the boundary line of Grayson county," have instructed me to report a substitute, and recommend its adoption.

D. GAGE, Chairman.

Hon. J. A. GREER,
President of the Senate :

The committee on Counties and County Boundaries, to whom was referred a bill to be entitled "an act to provide for the location of the county seat of Grayson county," have instructed me to report a substitute, and recommend its adoption.

D. GAGE, Chairman.

Hon. J. A. GREER,
President of the Senate:

The committee on Counties and County Boundaries, to whom was referred the memorial of the citizens of Dallas county, praying the passage of a law by which they may locate the seat of justice of said county by vote, have instructed me to report a bill herewith transmitted, and recommend its passage.

D. GAGE, Chairman.

Which reports were severally read and laid upon the table, to come up with the orders of the day on to-morrow.

Mr. Perkins, chairman of the committee on Private Land Claims, made the following reports:

Committee Room, }
Dec. 29, 1847. }

Hon. J. A. GREER,
President of the Senate:

The committee on Private Land Claims have had under consideration the petition of Elijah D. Holland, and being satisfied he is the same Elijah Holland mentioned on the muster roll of Capt. Jevons, which is now in the office of the Adjutant General, the committee have instructed me to report the accompanying preamble and resolutions, and recommend their passage.

S. W. PERKINS, Chairman.

Hon. J. A. GREER,
President of the Senate:

The committee on Private Land Claims have had under consideration the petition of Adolphus Sterne. They are satisfied that an incorrect return was made by the Clerk of the Board of Land Commissioners for Nacogdoches county, on the certificate No. 335, of 1st class headrights. It appears the Board of Land Commissioners first issued a certificate in favor of the heirs of Francisco Sanches—after which they became satisfied that the certificate should have been issued in the name of Ma-

ria Josefa Sanches. The original certificate was then cancelled by said Board, and one issued to Adolphus Sterne, assignee of Maria Josefa Sanches. It is evident from the certificate and proof adduced, that the Board of travelling Commissioners recommended for patent the certificate in the name of Adolphus Sterne, assignee of Maria Josefa Sanches, and by neglect of the Clerk, a wrong entry was made, and the return to the Gen. Land Office accordingly incorrect, which showed that the certificate in favor of Francisco Sanches' heirs was recommended. In view of these facts, the committee have directed me to report the accompanying resolutions, and recommend their passage.

S. W. PERKINS, Chairman.

Mr. Clark, chairman of the committee on the Judiciary, made the following report:

Committee Room, }
December 28, 1847. }

Hon. J. A. GREER,
President of the Senate :

The Judiciary Committee, to whom was referred the petition of Franklin B. Sexton, of San Augustine county, asking that the Legislature pass a law admitting him to practice law in the District Courts of the State, signed by many members of the bar of the fifth Judicial District, attesting his moral character, and his proficiency in the law: and also a bill to admit Asa H. Willie and Josiah F. Crosby to practice law in the various Courts of this State, have had the same under consideration, and instruct me to report favorably upon the request of the parties. They herewith report to the Senate the accompanying bill as a substitute for the one above mentioned, in which they have incorporated the name of Franklin B. Sexton, deeming one act sufficient in the premises.

EDWARD CLARK, Chairman.

Mr. Clark, chairman of the Committee on the Judiciary, made the following report:

Committee Room, }
Dec. 29, 1847. }

Hon. J. A. GREER,
President of the Senate :

The Judiciary Committee have had under consideration a "Joint Resolution instructing our Senators, and requesting our Representatives in Congress, relative to suitable places for holding the sessions of the United States' District Court," referred to them a few days since, and herewith report to the Senate a substitute therefor, the adoption and passage of which they recommend.

The committee suppose an elaborate report upon the subject of the resolution unnecessary, as every Senator can appreciate the advantages that would result to the State and to the people by the establishment of an additional District for the State.—the circumstances which dictate this step on the part of the Legislature, and render its success essential to the safety and prosperity of the State.

EDWARD CLARK, Chairman.

On motion of Mr. Jewett, the rule requiring reports to lay on the table for one day, was suspended. The report and resolution were taken up and read, and on motion of Mr. Gage, was laid upon the table.

Mr. Jewett, chairman of the committee on Indian Affairs, made the following report:

Committee Room, }
Dec. 30, 1847. }

Hon. J. A. GREER,
President of the Senate :

The committee on Indian Affairs, to whom was referred the bill to be entitled "an act to prohibit the sale or disposal of powder, lead or spirituous liquors to Indians," have had the same under consideration, and beg leave to report, that they recommend the passage of the bill, with the following amendment:—after the word "dollars" at the end of section 1st, insert the following words: "Provided that this act shall not extend to any

resident Indians nor descendants of Indians, who pay taxes within the State."

All of which is respectfully submitted.

HENRY J. JEWETT, Chairman.

A message was received from the House of Representatives, through their Chief Clerk, Mr. Ben. F. Hill, informing the Senate that the House had passed the following Bills and Joint Resolutions, viz:—

A bill to be entitled an act to regulate the salaries of District Attorneys :

A bill to be entitled an act to provide for the disposition of the funds received from the United States :

Joint preamble and resolutions of the State of Texas, responsive to the "Resolutions relative to Slavery and the Mexican War," passed by the Senate and the House of Representatives of the State of Vermont in the month of November, A. D. 1846, and transmitted to His Excellency the Governor of this State :

Joint resolutions of the State of Texas, responsive to the resolutions of the General Assembly of Virginia, adopted in March, of the present year :

Also, that the House had passed a substitute for a joint resolution originating in the Senate, entitled a joint resolution to repeal the joint resolution granting further time for the payment of government dues, and the return of field notes.

Mr. Perkins introduced a bill to be entitled an act to amend the 11th section of an act to incorporate the Brazos Canal Company. Read 1st time.

Mr. Williams introduced a bill to be entitled an act to provide for marking in part the boundary line between the Districts of Fannin and Nacogdoches. Read 1st time.

Mr. Wallace introduced a bill to be entitled an act to prevent Justices of the Peace and Clerks of District, County and Probate Courts, from issuing executions for costs only, in civil actions. Read 1st time.

Mr. Grimes offered the following resolution :

"*Resolved*, That the committee on Public Lands be required to enquire into the propriety of granting unconditional certificates for lands to assignees, where the original grantee has died in the country: and that they report by bill or otherwise."

Adopted.

The Senate proceeded to the Orders of the Day.

The report of the committee on the Judiciary, on the bill to be entitled an act to amend the 11th section of an act entitled an act defining the office and duties of Coroners, approved 13th May, 1846, was read and adopted, and the bill as amended ordered to be engrossed.

The report of the committee on the Judiciary, on the petition of Morgan Wilson, praying to be allowed to peddle without paying a license tax, was read, and on motion of Mr. Wallace, laid on the table.

Mr. Wallace moved to re-refer the petition of Morgan Wilson to the committee on the Judiciary.

Lost.

On motion of Mr. Grimes the petition was laid on the table.

A bill to be entitled an act to remove the disability of minority from William Stean Jr., so as to enable him to receive his portion of the estate of his dec'd. parents—read second time, and

On motion of Mr. Dancy, referred to the committee on the Judiciary.

A committee from the House of Representatives announced to the Senate, that the annual message of His Excellency the Governor, had been received, and requested the Senate to meet the House at their convenience to hear the reading of the same.

Mr. Parker moved that a committee be appointed to inform the House of Representatives that the Senate would meet them at 3 o'clock, for the purpose of hearing the message of His Excellency the Governor read.

Lost.

On motion of Mr. Cuny, a committee was appointed to inform the House that the Senate would meet them at half past 11 o'clock for the purpose of hearing the message read.

Messrs. Cuny, McRea and Phillips were appointed said committee.

On motion of Mr. Williamson, the Senate adjourned until half past 11 o'clock.

—
1-2 past 11 o'clock.

Senate met—roll called—quorum present.

The Senate repaired to the House of Representatives.

The Governor's message was read, and is as follows:

EXECUTIVE OFFICE,
Austin, December 29, 1847. }

*Gentlemen of the Senate,
and of the House of Representatives :*

The Message of my predecessor, communicated to the Legislature, at the commencement of the session, gave you all the necessary information, in relation to the present condition of the Government, and of its administration, since your last convention. It only remains for me to recommend to your consideration, such measures, and the adoption of such a course of policy, as may seem expedient for our future governance and prosperity.

The present position of our affairs, affords ample room for congratulation. At no period, in the history of our country, have we had more cause to rejoice, on account of her prosperous condition. Our State Government, founded on the will and affections of the people, is daily growing in strength. Local jealousies and sectional prejudices, if they ever existed, have given place to the better feelings of patriotism, and habits of industry, and subordination to the laws, prevail throughout the length and breadth of the State. Security at home, and the peaceful enjoyment of the blessings of liberal institutions, have given a new impulse to our advancement in prosperity, happiness, and the science of government. The past season has been one of general good health, and Providence has blessed the country with an abundant harvest. For all of which, we owe to the Supreme Being, our sincere gratitude.

Meeting together under circumstances so auspicious, it becomes our duty, to unite in harmonious action, for the continuance and promotion of the prosperity and happiness of our common constituents.

Among the many important matters, which will come up for your consideration, there is none more urgent and difficult of adjustment, than that of the payment of our public debt.—The first point in relation thereto, is the determination of its amount: the next, is the means of its payment. The subject is intricate and perplexing, and will require close investigation. Should the Legislature think proper to act upon it, with a view to its adjustment, I would respectfully suggest the propriety of appointing a commission of two or three gentlemen of integrity and ability, to examine, audit and ascertain our true indebtedness, including of course, our foreign and domestic debt,

funded and unfunded, audited and unaudited; allowing such as they may find to be just and legal, subject however to the ratification or rejection of the Legislature. As to the amount we ought justly to pay, upon each nominal species of debt, it will be for your collective wisdom to determine. After much reflection upon the subject, I have thought, that the true measure of payment, would be the market value of the several evidences of indebtedness at the time they were disposed of by our Treasury or the agent thereof, with interest thereon from that time, at the rate named on the face of such evidences. It is believed that the amount of our entire indebtedness, determined by this scale, will not perhaps exceed five millions of dollars.

As to our means of payment—our large and valuable public domain, is the only ready resource we have. This too, presents a still more important subject for your deliberations; as you will have to determine upon some course of policy to be pursued in bringing this immense tract of country into market. At a fair price, it is not only sufficient to liquidate our debt, but will give us a surplus after its payment, of inestimable value when applied, as it should be to the education of the youth of our country, and the developement of our resources, by internal improvements.

The most suitable and proper purchaser of our public lands is the United States. If a sale can be effected on advantageous terms, it will, under the present circumstances, be desirable, inasmuch as the Federal Constitution gives her alone, the exclusive right of regulating our intercourse with the Indian tribes. She would then be the owner of the soil occupied by the various tribes upon our borders, and could the more effectually control them. In addition to this, her uniform manner of surveying and selling her public lands, would greatly facilitate settlements within our State.

If, in your wisdom, you determine to propose a sale of our public domain to the General Government, I would respectfully suggest, that you appoint our delegation in Congress, or some other suitable persons as Commissioners, to enter into negotiations with the proper authorities, upon this important subject. If however, you determine upon another course of policy as being better calculated to promote the interest of the State, you have the assurance of a hearty sanction and co-op-

eration of the Executive in whatever you may legally and constitutionally do.

Our debt must be paid. The honor of the State must stand without blemish. We never can expect to attain a high and permanent prosperity, until it is done, and the consummation of a purpose so noble, calls for united and energetic action.

I would here take occasion to call the attention of your honorable body, to a subject which has of late, occupied much of the public mind—a subject involving in its issue, interests of the greatest moment to the people of Texas. I allude to the efforts that have been made, and are now making to sustain certain land claims, supposed to be fraudulent. It is a notorious fact, that the country is flooded with these claims, and if they should hold good, and the perpetrators of such fraud succeed in their designs, it were useless longer to consider, as to the disposition of our public domain, as in that event, the whole would be appropriated and absorbed by them. The evil would not stop here. The State will not be the only sufferer. The vested rights of our oldest and best citizens will be disturbed and endangered. Our land titles will be clouded, emigrants will be prevented from purchasing, the settlement and improvement of our country, will be retarded, and an amount of confusion and litigation, unparalleled in the history of our sister States, will necessarily ensue. The question arises, is there no remedy by which these evils can be arrested? Will the State submit to the imposition of a fraud so general in its character, and so pernicious in its consequences? It seems to me that some further Legislative provisions are indispensable to the security of the public interest. I would therefore recommend that your honorable body adopt such measures as will effectually enable the judicial tribunals of the State, to prevent the consummation of titles to land, acquired by virtue of fraudulent certificates, and that precautionary means be taken, to prevent the survey of the public lands on spurious and fictitious claims.

It will become your duty under the 29th, and 31st sections of the third article of the Constitution, to fix the number of Senators and Representatives to the Legislature, and to apportion them among the several counties and districts of the State, according to the number of our free population. as ascertained and reported by the county Assessors, in pursuance of the law passed by the last session of the Legislature.

It will also be necessary for you, under the same sections of the Constitution, to enact a law for a similar enumeration in the year eighteen hundred and forty eight.

Our last Legislature passed an act to establish a State Penitentiary. This law provides for the erection of the buildings by the convicts, and is of course inoperative for want of a penal code applicable to such mode of punishment. It will, therefore become your duty to adopt a code for the punishment of all offences not capital and above the grade of misdemeanor by confinement to labor in the Penitentiary of the State. With the lights before us and the experience of other States in regard to the mode of punishment, you cannot fail to digest a code of criminal laws which will not only supercede the savage practice of the whipping post, but will deter the wicked among us from violating the rights of others. So soon as this necessary code is adopted, the Executive will cheerfully proceed to execute the provisions of the act of 1846.

The 15th section of the 4th article of our constitution having given to the District Court "original jurisdiction and control over executors, administrators, guardians and minors under such regulations as may be prescribed by law," the last Legislature without prescribing these regulations, proceeded to give to the Probate Courts ample powers over the same subjects. By this means some confusion has arisen in the interpretation of our succession laws. Some Legislation provisions will, therefore, be necessary to regulate this jurisdiction. I bring this matter more readily before you, because it will be admitted by all, that no branch of our civil jurisprudence is of more practicable importance than the laws regulating the safe keeping of the estates of minors and deceased persons. And perhaps it may be said with equal truth, that no part of our laws are more imperfect.

The 36th section of the 7th Article of the Constitution, provides, that within five years after its adoption, the laws civil and criminal shall be revised, digested, arranged and published in such manner as the Legislature shall direct. To carry out this excellent provision of the fundamental law, I would recommend the appointment of legal gentlemen to revise, digest and arrange our entire code of laws. The work is greatly needed by our county officers, throughout the State. Many of them are without the Statutes; and those who have them, find in them such entire absence of arrangement, that

they are to them a sealed book. To engage the services of men learned in the law, and to have the work well done, a suitable compensation should be allowed them by law, and provisions should be made for publishing the code so soon as it is revised.

I would further recommend to the Legislature the propriety of having published the decisions of the Supreme Court of the State. During the last two years, important principles have been adjudicated by that tribunal, involving interest of great magnitude, and explanatory of our statutes and defining our legal and social rights. These decisions have not as yet been published in an authentic form, and as it is important and desirable that they should be correctly printed and generally disseminated, the necessary appropriation should be made.

By the 10th article of the Constitution, it is made the duty of the Legislature to make suitable provision for the support and maintenance of public schools. Your body is further required, as early as practicable to establish free schools throughout the State. One tenth of the annual revenue derived from taxation is set apart as a perpetual public free school fund. In addition to this general fund, the land granted to the various counties for school purposes are made a perpetual fund, and those counties, which have not as yet received their quantum of school lands, shall be entitled thereto.

The Congress of the late Republic of Texas by an act approved 26th January, 1839, directed to be surveyed and set apart for each county, for the purpose of establishing a primary school or academy in each county, three leagues of land.

By the same act fifty leagues of land were directed to be surveyed and set apart for the endowment of two colleges or universities.

By another act approved 5th February, 1840, the Chief Justice and two associate Justices of each county were appointed a board of School Commissioners, with power to have located and surveyed the three leagues above referred to, and the additional power of surveying and selling an additional league of land; the one-half of the proceeds of such sale to be applied to the endowment of the county academy, and the remainder to be distributed to the county school districts.

This is the whole of our imperfect legislation on the great and vital subject of Education.

It is almost impossible to tell what the old counties have

done upon the subject of surveying and selling school lands. To obtain the necessary information in relation to the matter we need some legal provision requiring the county clerks, assessors or chief justices to report what has been done in their respective counties. It is believed however, that few of the counties have had the lands surveyed.

The system of leasing or renting school lands has never worked well in any of the States. Experience has universally proved the expediency of selling such lands and bringing the monies into a general school fund.

To begin however, in this great work, it will be necessary that we should know, what lands have been set part by the counties where they are situated; and that we proceed under constitutional requirements to have set apart the deficient lands. I therefore recommend that you make provision on this subject at as early a day as practicable.

It will also be for your body to say what disposition shall be made of the tenth of the revenue now in the Treasury, and annually coming in as a permanent school fund.

The license and revenue laws passed by the last Legislature, have in their practical operation produced some confusion and dissatisfaction among our citizens. It will be for you to consider whether they cannot be revised and modified in such a manner as to be more uniform and less objectionable to the tax paying community.

In connection with this subject I would suggest the propriety of having the assessment roll of non-resident tax payers published at a point, as near as possible to the location of the property assessed. This would certainly present the readiest means of giving information to the owners.

For the more speedy and certain collection of State and county revenue, I would recommend that a law be passed, authorizing a judgment to be taken by motion against any officer and his securities on their bond, for a failure to pay over the public monies by him collected.

The last Congress made an appropriation for the erection of two light houses upon our coast. One to stand upon Galveston and the other upon Matagorda Island. Before the works can progress it will be necessary that the Legislature pass a law, ceding to the General Government the right of jurisdiction over the grounds appropriated to such purposes. I herewith transmit to you a communication from the collector of the port

of Galveston, upon this subject. The communication contains some other suggestions in relation to the transfer of our "Custom Houses and other places for the collection of import duties." It is respectfully submitted to your consideration.

In addition to our population speaking the English language, we have a large, industrious and growing German population. It will be necessary in order that they may participate fully in the blessings of our free Government that a certain number of copies of our statutes of a general nature, should be printed in their language. As they must abide by our laws, let them know what they are. Such has been our custom in regard to our citizens speaking the Spanish language. The reasons are still more potent in regard to the enterprising and patriotic German who has come to make his home in our country, and who has already given us a pledge of his worth in the spirit of improvement which he has kindled in the western portion of our State.

I cannot close this communication without congratulating you upon the success of our arms in Mexico, and also expressing a sincere desire that the infatuated people of that unhappy country will see the necessity of accepting the honorable and liberal terms of conciliation offered them by the United States.

But while the administration of the Federal Government has covered itself with glory in the conduct of the war, every patriotic spirit is made to tremble with anxiety for the peace of the Union, because of the late and fearful combination in the North against the institutions of the Southern States.

The object is to rally in the National Congress, a majority favorable to the distinction of the compromises of 1819, and of the Federal Constitution.

I sincerely hope that you will not adjourn without publicly expressing a strong and pointed condemnation of these startling doctrines.

In conclusion, gentlemen, I recommend to you a just economy in the public expenditures, and a mutual concession of opinions for the purposes of harmony and the despatch of public business. And I promise you the use of my sincere and best endeavors to co-operate with you in carrying out every legal and constitutional measure that will advance the interest of our beloved country.

GEO. T. WOOD.

The Senate returned to their Chamber; and, on motion of Mr. Williamson, the Senate adjourned until 3 o'clock, p. m.

3 o'clock, p. m.

Senate met—roll called—quorum present.

On motion of Mr. Gage, the report of the Judiciary Committee on the joint resolution instructing the Senators and requesting our Representatives in Congress, relative to suitable places for holding the sessions of the United States District Court was taken up; read, and substitute reported by the committee: adopted.

Mr. Phillips moved to amend, by striking out "or Passo Cavallo;" carried.

Mr. Dancy moved to amend, by striking out after "therefore," to "that when," and insert as follows: "and that the two Congressional Districts shall constitute the two Judicial Districts of the United States Court, in the State of Texas, and that the Judges shall hold Courts therein at such places as may be prescribed by law;" lost.

Mr. Perkins moved to strike out "Saluria," and insert "Matagorda;" lost.

Mr. Williams moved to amend by inserting the word "Clarksville," before "Henderson," in second district: carried.

Mr. Perkins moved to amend by inserting "Matogorda," before "Corpus Christi;" carried.

Mr. Grimes moved to amend by inserting the word "Huntsville," before "Clarksville;" carried.

Mr. Gage moved the previous question—carried; and the resolution as amended was ordered to be engrossed.

A bill to be entitled an act, establishing more permanently the seat of Justice of Collin county; read second time; and,

On motion of Mr. Williams, referred to the committee on Counties and County Boundaries.

A bill to be entitled an act, to provide for repairs necessary on public buildings in the city of Austin; read second time; and,

On motion of Mr. Gage, referred to the committee on State Affairs.

A Bill to be entitled an act, to prescribe the mode of voting in all popular election; read second time; and,

On motion of Mr. Gage, referred to the Committee on Privileges and Elections.

A message was received from the House of Representatives, through their chief clerk, Mr. Ben. F. Hill, informing the Senate that the House had passed a "bill to be entitled an act, to provide an appropriation for the payment of the mileage and per diem pay of the members of the Legislature of the State of Texas."

A bill to be entitled an act, authorizing the county court of Red River county, to have the records in books of A, B and C, of deeds and mortgages, and other instruments of writing now in the office of the clerk of said county transcribed; read second time; and,

On motion of Mr. Bourland, referred to the Committee on State Affairs.

A bill to be entitled an act, to prescribe the time of the biennial meeting of the Legislature of the State of Texas: read second time; and,

On motion of Mr. Clark, referred to the committee on State Affairs.

A bill to be entitled an act, to establish public schools in the county of Galveston; read second time; and,

On motion of Mr. Williamson, referred to the Committee on Education.

On motion of Mr. Phillipps, Mr. Bache was added to the Committee on Education.

On motion of Mr. Grimes, Mr. Bache was added to the Committee on Finance.

On motion of Mr. Gage, Mr. Bache was added to the Committee on Counties and County Boundaries.

On motion of Mr. Williamson, Mr. Dancy was added to the Committee on the Judiciary.

A bill to be entitled an act, to amend the Constitution of the State of Texas; read second time; and,

On motion of Mr. Perkins, referred to the Committee on State Affairs.

Substitute from the House of Representatives, for joint resolution originating in the Senate, to repeal the joint resolution granting further time for the payment of government dues, and the return of field notes; read, and adopted.

A bill to be entitled an act, to provide for the disposition of the funds received from the United States; read first time; and,

On motion of Mr. Williamson, rule suspended, and bill read second time.

Mr. Williamson moved to amend the bill by adding, "and that this act take effect from and after its passage;" adopted.

On motion of Mr. Williamson, the rule was further suspended, and the bill as amended was read third time and passed.

A bill to be entitled an act, to provide for locating the seat of Justice of the county of Austin; read third time.

On motion of Mr. Cuny, the bill was amended, by a vote of two-thirds of the Senate, by inserting the words, "of land," after "tract," in first section; and bill as amended passed.

On motion of Mr. Williamson, the bill to be entitled an act, to provide an appropriation for the payment of the mileage and per diem pay of the members of the Legislature of the State of Texas, was taken up and read first time.

On motion of Mr. Phillips, the Senate adjourned until to-morrow morning, 10 o'clock.

Friday, 10 o'clock, A. M.
December 31st, 1847.

Senate met—roll called.

The following Senators answered to their names:

Messrs. Abbott, Bache, Bourland, Brashear, Burleson, Clark, Cuny, Dancy, Gage, Grimes, Jewett, McRae, Navarro, Parker, Perkins, Phillips, Wallace, Williams, Williamson and Wooten—quorum present.

The Journal of the preceding day was read and adopted.

Mr. Phillips presented the petition of Stewart Perry, praying for relief, which was read; and,

On motion of Mr. Phillips, was referred, together with the accompanying documents, to the Committee on Claims and Accounts.

Mr. Bache presented the petition of Thos. F. McKinney, praying for relief, which was read; and,

On motion of Mr. Bache, referred to a select joint committee.